

Message Text

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47

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 AGR-05

AID-05 /072 W

----- 062427

R 141250Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1073

INFO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 2685

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, CS

SUBJECT: VISIT OF COSTA RICAN PRESIDENT TO ISRAEL

REF: (A) SAN JOSE 1281, (B) SAN JOSE 1371

1. JACOB BARMORE, DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN DIVISION AT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DISCUSSED WITH US THE VISIT TO ISRAEL MARCH 29-APRIL 1 OF COSTA RICAN PRESIDENT ODUBER. FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON ALSO TOUCHED UPON THE VISIT BRIEFLY IN A DISCUSSION WITH THE AMBASSADOR ON ANOTHER SUBJECT. BARMORE SAID THE VISIT WENT WELL AND HE BELIEVED THAT COSTA RICAN SYMPATHIES TOWARD ISRAEL HAD BEEN REINFORCED. PRESIDENT ODUBER, WHO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY NATIONAL BANK PRESIDENT JIMENEZ, UN AMBASSADOR SALAZAR, AND A POLITICAL ASSOCIATE, FATHER NUNEZ, HAD PREVIOUSLY VISITED IN ISRAEL IN 1963 AS FOREIGN MINISTER.

2. ODUBER EXPRESSED TO HIS HOSTS A DESIRE TO STRENGTHEN THE TIES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. BARMORE EXPLAINED THAT ISRAELI-COSTA RICAN RELATIONS ARE ALREADY CLOSE BUT ODUBER FEELS THIS IS A SITUATION WHICH HE INHERITED FROM HIS PREDECESSOR AND HE WOULD LIKE TO STRENGTHEN THOSE TIES EVEN MORE. THE TWO SIDES DISCUSSED THE
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COSTA RICAN REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

FROM ISRAEL. SEVERAL PROJECTS WERE IDENTIFIED UNDER WHICH ISRAEL WOULD GIVE ASSISTANCE PRIMARILY IN AGRICULTURE AND COTTAGE INDUSTRIES DESIGNED TO PREVENT THE DRIFT FROM RURAL TO URBAN AREAS. THE COSTA RICANS ALSO DISCUSSED THEIR PLANS TO DEVELOP AND ENCOURAGE TOURISM.

3. DURING THEIR DISCUSSIONS OF POLITICAL SUBJECTS BARMORE SAID THE COSTA RICANS EXPRESSED GREAT ANXIETY ABOUT CUBA, AN ANXIETY WHICH THEY SAID IS SHARED BY THEIR CENTRAL AMERICAN NEIGHBORS. ALLON MADE THE SAME POINT TO THE AMBASSADOR, ADDING THAT ODUBER, WHOM HE CHARACTERIZED AS VERY PRO-U.S., IS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT CUBA AS A RESULT OF ITS SUCCESS IN ANGOLA. TOON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHIEF OF STATE VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchant0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TELAV02685
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760141-0666
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760460/aaaabzha.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 SAN JOSE 1281, 76 SAN JOSE 1371
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 JUL 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <13 OCT 2004 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF COSTA RICAN PRESIDENT TO ISRAEL
TAGS: PFOR, IS, CS, (ODUBER, DANIEL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006